The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A mat for reducing the disturbance of particulate matter by wind, the mat including:

5 (a) a first layer of coarse mesh material; and

(b) a second layer of coarse mesh material;

wherein the first layer is held in a substantially fixed position relative to the second layer.

10 2. A mat according to claim 1 wherein the mesh material is a knitted material with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm.

15 3. A mat according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2 wherein the mesh material is formed from plastics fibres.

4. A mat according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to~~ 3 wherein each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50%.

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5. A mat according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to~~ 4 wherein each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.

25 6. A helicopter landing mat, including one or more mats according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~, further including a peripheral region which has a greater mass per unit area than the mesh material, wherein the first layer is attached to the second layer in the peripheral region.

30 7. A helicopter landing mat according to claim 6, wherein the mat has a length and a width which exceed the rotor span of a helicopter.

~~8.   A helicopter landing mat substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings.~~

98. A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind, including the steps of:

(a) covering the surface with a mat which has a first layer of coarse mesh

5 material and a second layer of coarse mesh material, the first layer being held in a substantially fixed position relative to the second layer; and

(b) fixing the mat to the surface at a plurality of points around the periphery of the mat.

10 109. A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind according to claim 98, wherein each layer of the mesh material is a knitted material made from plastics fibres with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm, and each layer of the mesh material has a

15 porosity of between 10% and 50% and a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.